

THE MACON BEACON

67th YEAR

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"Diary of a Mississippi Planter"

MONTH OF MAY 1840.

Some weeks ago we reproduced on this page a number of extracts from a diary, kept three quarters of a century ago, by Dr. M. W. Phillips who then was living at his country home a few miles from Jackson which, at the time, although the capital of Mississippi, was yet but a country village in an adolescent State.

A brief editorial preface introduced the extracts, and while they have received no particular notice from the press, they have been well received by the readers of the BEACON—who, after all, are the people we are most interested in—some of whom have been kind enough to write expressing appreciation, one going so far as to say: "I believe every one was interested in it. [the diary]. It certainly reads as if it might have been written yesterday instead of sixty years ago." It was written in 1840—seventy-five years back.

Today, we will resume the publication of such extracts from it as we think may possess interest as they have a touch about them which awakens emotions akin to those aroused by a voice out of the mist of the past.

In his last entry for April, 1840, Dr. Phillips concludes in these words:

"Working over sweet potato patch; Isaac and Charity cleaning potatoes."

"I am fearful we are giving too much time to burn field and striving to get in too much, the season being very wet and the heaviest rains I ever knew fall in such succession; distant thunder with frequent flashes to-night."

The follows:

MAY, 1840

1. Commenced scraping in burn field; one plow barring off; two the best part of day in old corn; finished planting new-ground corn, except the part that was too wet; rain last night, cloudy nearly the whole day. The air so thin and quiet that I heard a steam boat in Mississippi River. [The nearest point on the Mississippi River is about twelve miles from Log Hall, the name of Dr. Phillips' place]. Thunder about sun-down, very distant.

Cotton looks very fine thus far, notwithstanding the constant rains. We have concluded to feed mules on the half of what corn usually fed on by giving cut oats, and not giving corn until pretty well filled with the oats—12 ears of corn at night and 5 at mid-day; 2 hours' rest at midday; 35 ears has been the feed until yesterday.

2. Jacob hauling timbers for cattle shed, the other hands in burn, scraping—rather more than half done—get along slow, owing to cotton seed not being covered, it being wet when planted. Most clear today, but tonight windy and air soft.

Found it necessary to put Emily and Helen (Durham cows) into oat field; the former so poor not able to get along.

3. Sunday; very windy today. One mule killed by falling of a tree.

4. Jacob, Ned and Charles plowing corn; pumpkin seed planted today; finished new ground corn, and Gilbert and Viney barring off; other hands scraping in new burn; sweet potatoes cleaned; Irish potatoes in bloom some 5 to 7 days.

Finished scraping about 5 o'clock p. m.; commenced hoeing over corn, although in whole order, but desired to give it a thorough working; nearly done plowing the corn, 4 plows at it after Viney finished barring off.

6. All hands at the hoe in corn field, and finished it in one day, a very good day's work; cloudy late in the evening, a shower; wind high tonight.

7. Maria Taylor's first calf, 3-4 Durham, by Lorenzo; commenced scraping the second time below gin house; all hands at the hoe; about 3 o'clock p. m., driven in by rain; now nearly nine, raining ever since. More rain than I ever saw fall; now raining hard and has nearly all the while. Cow lot fence, though very high and heavy, has been swept away in two places; it has been in, or near, present situation 6 years and never moved before. I dread to see tomorrow, with its watery tidings.

8. Sad havoc with cotton, gullies now where never a wash; all loop heaps in burn field afloat, exater over all the field, except from hill to spring; fence gone at the back of field. What a pretty day after so hellish an afternoon!

All hands in the woods, mauling and putting up pasture fence. In the afternoon, took 3 boys in burn to float out logs, etc.; succeeded finely; try again tomorrow.

9. The day was so cold we did not try the water again, falling only about 30 inches since yesterday at 5 o'clock, now 8 o'clock p. m. Plowed up cotton in the flat of gin house cut, washed up and died out. On finding so much of sweet potato ground washed up, took all hands in it, gave it a thorough working and replanted all missing, now a full stand, and in fine order. Planted some drawings amongst corn where missing. Part of new ground corn covered an inch or more with earth from

the adjoining field by the heavy rain. Uncomfortably cold with a coat buttoned all day. Clear at night, but cloudy all day.

10. Sunday.
11. A fine Durham calf out of Martha Bryant by Lorenzo; morning quite cool, midday warm in the sun, air cool; cleaning out gin house cut. 2 plows and Maria replanting the flat in this piece, much washed up and drowned out by rain.

12. All hands in gin house cut; getting along very slow, but are kept very steadily and busily at work. Heavy dew, now 8 o'clock p. m.; green peas and beans today.

13. After finishing gin house about 10 a. m., commenced in front and cleared out very prettily 10 measured acres; 17 big and little, old and young; a ewe brought up 2 lambs today, now 27 in all; dust in chopping already.

14. Hands have done an excellent day's work, about 13 acres cleared today. Earth getting very hard, in many places close and stiff.

Finished cattle house, 50 by 18 feet, 12 feet high.

15. Two plows in new ground corn, part a good stand, some 2 acres must be planted over. Hoe hands in front of gin house. Have visited Alex Montgomery's (Dr. Phillips' brother-in-law) place today. The rain has ruined his crop, one-half of his cotton crop washed up; levee washed away in many places; fencing gone for about a mile, low ground washed greatly, no idea of the injury. No one can describe water higher on the levee by 11 inches and in low ground by three feet. He will lose at least 100 acres of cotton—will plant over. This freshet has been general in this section.

16. Four plows in the new ground corn today, and all hoe hands since 9 this morn. We have now cleared out about 45 acres of cotton and 7 of corn, giving all a good working. Oats just commenced heading.

17. Sunday.

18. Absent today at Raymond to attend Marshall's sale at 'Log Hall,' but no sale. Three plows in new ground corn, hoe hands as on Saturday, finished working and plowing corn and planting that overflowed.

19. Six plows in cotton in gin house cut. Hoe hands where they stopped on Saturday morn, in the hills of the cut in front of gin house.

Cloudy yesterday and much appearance of rain today, several light sprinkles of rain, very warm; crop improving very much.

20. A continuance of the same work. Plows finished in the gin house cut at 10 o'clock, those running round, the others not until 5 p. m. Clear and warm.

21. Six plows in old corn, giving it the last working and sowing peas at same time in fine order, about shoulder high, fine color. Now corn in the bunch, a tassel or so in sight. Finished cotton in front of gin house 12 m. After hoe hands had finished the cotton in front of gin house they fired the brush and logs in old burn. I find the new burn so hard and dry that I conclude to dirt with plows before hoes.

22. Sent hoe hands over to assist Alex K. Montgomery out of his overflow. Plows in corn, plowed yesterday about 15 acres.

Guinea grass now as high as my head, the best of it.

23. Hoe hands still at Montgomery's Plow hands in cotton in front of gin house. The three that plowed round corn finished on 22nd at noon; the other three today about 10 o'clock. Clear and very warm thro' the day. In evening wind sprang up, blowing fresh, cloudy, at 9 o'clock a few drops of rain.

24. Sunday. No rain last night. The entire crop is growing off finely, but the ground is very hard, a moderate rain now desired but not required, fair crop.

Weighed three pigs today. Listed one weighed 111 lbs; white, 92, spotted, 87.

25. A fine rain in the afternoon of yesterday and too much last night. Too wet to plow or hoe. Fellows getting rails, hauling corn, women raking up manure.

26. All hands in new burn, plows running round, hoes cleaning and dirting after the plows. Nights cold.

27. Plows finished running round in new burn at breakfast, then went to cut in front of gin house, running round, so as to get the strong mules in the old burn to plant corn, intending to break out middles with light mules. Hoe hands get on slow.

Cotton improving much, crop looks well. First corn tassel out. Bees swarmed and saved.

28. Hoe hands doing well today, cotton not so foul; plowing done better and soil not so heavy. Plow hands finished running round the cut in front of gin house; two now breaking out middles and two double-plows in the burn since dinner, preparatory to planting it in corn.

29. Hoe hands finished new burn at 12 m., then cleaned out sweet potatoes near gin house and pinders. Then commenced gin cut for third working; 2 plows breaking out middles; two double-plows in burn, slow.

Crop improves very fast, oats in head fully. Beets, Irish potatoes and squashes for several days.

30. Hoe hands in the gin house cut, fair day's work; three plows in the same before hoe. Two double-horse plows in old burn. Sold to Mr. M. Baldwin two Durham cattle, Lorenzo and a heifer, \$300.

Governor Brewer has granted a pardon to Jake Beall, a life-terminer. Beall is one of the oldest convicts in the penitentiary, having been sent up from Noddy county 26 years ago to serve a life term for murder.—Jackson News.

MILKCHOW FOR SALE—A four-gallon milk-cow, fresh with calf, for sale cheap. Address E. M. M. Beacon Office.

MISSISSIPPI ROUTE THE SHORTEST

Only One Route For the Jackson Military Highway.

Mr. D. J. Morrison, president of the Mississippi Highway Association, has issued the following:

The odds are against the State of Mississippi to secure the Jackson Military road from Nashville to New Orleans, although Mississippi has every logical advantage over the Alabama route via Birmingham.

The Mississippi route is 250 miles shorter; grades and levels are most economically provided by nature; the agricultural advantages are unsurpassed; a thickly settled, intelligent, white population crowds along the right of way; the finest road materials, having been approved by the Federal Government, lie in great beds almost continuously throughout the route, and the only military road built by Gen. Jackson enters the State at or near Columbus and terminates at Madisonville, La., the climax of our natural advantages, yet with all these natural advantages backing up Mississippi's claim to the route there is great danger of its loss to Mississippi, for the reason that Mississippi is lacking and deficient in organization, as she has no highway department to direct this important fight, while our neighbor, Alabama, has a well organized State Highway Department with ample State aid, which is waging the strongest fight Mississippi has ever known to wrest from her that which justly belongs to her of great intrinsic value as well as distinction and honor. If Mississippi loses in this fight the loss will be the greatest in her history, and will be, if we lose, solely on account of the lack of a Highway Department upon which an organization to control these advantages depends.

For lack of organization of her commercial advantages when the boundaries of our State were run we lost Memphis, Mobile and New Orleans, for northern and eastern boundary lines of our State, meeting at right angles in the Northeast corner, if run straight West and South throw within the boundary of our State Memphis and Mobile. The Mississippi River for more than 2,500 miles from the East and West forms boundaries for eight states except Mississippi, although the river diverges sharply to the east near its mouth, a portion of Mississippi was cut out by the lines of Louisiana upon which New Orleans is located and thus on account of lack of organization to guard and protect her commercial interests Mississippi stands today the Niole of all her sister states, bereft of these, her right-ful three great cities and she now is imminent danger of another great loss.

ONLY ONE JACKSON ROUTE.

The Alabama contestants have adroitly and shrewdly confused the public mind that these "Pathfinders" have two good and valid routes to choose from. There never was a greater imposition attempted to be put upon the public than this two route proposition. There was never but one road built by Gen. Jackson, and that was through Mississippi. The world knows this; the Washington's authorities know this; Congress knows this and Congress will never appropriate a dollar for a Jackson Highway unless it conforms substantially to that built by Gen. Jackson. Because others than Mississippians may have first started this Jackson Highway movement gives them no title to change what Congress did a hundred years ago, nor take that which gold cannot buy, the glory and honor Gen. Jackson bequeathed to Mississippi.

FRUIT TREES.

I will have for sale during the month of November 10,000 Peach and Apple, Plum and Pear Trees at 10 to 15 cents each, also some Pecans at 50 cents each. November and December are the best months to put out trees. These trees are grown in Alabama and are as good as can be found anywhere and less than half the price charged by agents. Special price on large lots. Will have most any variety.

W. M. JONES, SR.

SERIOUS PEST.

Pink Corn Worm Appears — "High Life" Destroys It.

That the small pink worm that was such a serious pest to corn in Mississippi last year has again made its appearance in a number of counties in the state, is the information now being received by R. W. Harned, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

"To rid their cribs of these insects, and prevent damage to the grain," said Mr. Harned, "farmers can treat the infested corn with carbon bisulphide."

"According to the report now coming in," he said, "this pest is beginning its attack fully a month earlier than it did last year. This insect has been known to entomologists for many years but was not thought to be a pest. In former years it was known to feed only on stale corn, rotten cotton bolls, and other partially decayed vegetable matter. About a year ago, however, many farmers began finding these worms in their corn, both in the fields and in the cribs. The fact that they are again damaging corn would seem to indicate that the worms have changed their food habits and may possibly become permanent pests of corn."

"The College is anxious to learn how generally these pink worms are distributed over the state. Reports have already been received from eight counties. Farmers in all sections of the state are urged to send samples of any of their corn injured by these worms to the Entomologist, Agricultural College, Mississippi. The standard remedy for these insects is carbon bisulphide or 'high life.' The College Experiment Station will send a circular regarding the use of this substance to all who write for it."

Intensive Wheat Growing.

Seven years ago, says Pearson's Weekly, a Russian farmer discovered a method of increasing the yield of wheat in so startling a manner that no one believed he was telling the truth. The Russian declared that it was possible to get seventy pounds of grain from one seed, and to make an acre carry forty-five tons.

That does sound like a miracle, and The Companion does not vouch for it; but here is the method, and if any farmer has the patience to try it, he will certainly be surprised at the result.

Each grain is planted separately in a sunken bed about fifteen inches deep and three and a half feet in width—feet, remember, not inches.

As soon as the grain sprouts, the little blade is covered with a thin layer of earth about an inch and a half in depth. The result is that you get three stalks instead of one. At the end of three weeks the hoe comes into use again. At the end of three weeks the hoe comes into use again, and the three stalks being covered with earth, turn into nine stalks. This process on being repeated a third time results in twenty-seven stalks, and the Russian is question repeated it ten times in all, so that at last each grain produced 59,049 stalks. If the seed is first sown in the ordinary fashion, and then transplanted to the pit before mentioned, you get an even stronger growth, so that, after only eight coverings, more than 105,000 stalks have been produced from a single grain.—Youth's Companion.

A Texas newspaper editor who admits that he was not a financier describes one as follows: "A financier is a man who can make \$2 grow for himself where \$1 grew for somebody else before. If the financier had \$1 and needed \$2, he would use the dollar as the first payment on a ten dollar bill and he would then pond the \$10 for a \$20 gold piece and would charge \$5 for doing this. Then he would sell an option on the \$20 gold piece at \$17 for \$1 to 45 people, and would dispose of a half interest in the entire transaction for \$150, \$2 down and the rest payable in short time notes."

SEED WHEAT—New York white, very prolific, recombined and graded. Apply to Kins & Co. H. G. HANLAN.

LOOK RIGHT WHEN YOU BUY THEN STAY LEFT WHEN YOU WEAR THEN

Time deals lightly with HIGH ART STYLE CLOTHES

and—there is a reason, "High Art" Style Clothes

are built to last and the building materials are genius, all wool fabrics, finest trimmings and hand tailoring—lots of the latter.

If you're thinking "style," "value" and "service"—think "HIGH ART"—you'll never be accused of having a "wrong thought."

We are thought more of for these clothes we sell. Assortments are now complete. Call on us while you're thinking of it.

ONE OF MANY HIGH ART MODELS—SUITS TOO

A. KLAUS & Co.

Attention, Farmers!

Examine your corn, and no doubt you will find that it has in it the little pink worm that is so very destructive. I examined mine the other day and found it badly infected.

I am told that a pound or a pound and a half of Carbon Bisulphide, or High Life, as it is commonly called, placed in shallow vessels on top of the corn, after all the cracks in the corn bin or crib are closed up, will kill this pest.

You had better take out enough corn for several days rations before using it, and when using it. Be sure to allow no one with even a cigarette to go near it, and when it is poured into the vessels on top of the corn, get out of the crib as quickly as possible and close the crib, and let it stay closed two or three days. The second application in about two weeks may be necessary. It doesn't hurt the corn at all, and is death to all the insects that may be in the crib.

Free Until 1916.

Have you subscribed yet for The Youth's Companion for 1916? Now is the time to do it, if you are not already a subscriber, for you will get all the issues for the remaining weeks of 1915 free from the time your subscription with \$2.00 is received. The fifty-two issues of 1916 will be crowded with good reading for young and old. Reading that is entertaining but not "wishy-washy." Reading that leaves you, when you lay the paper down, better informed, with keener aspirations, with a broader outlook on life. The Companion is a good paper to tie to if you have a growing family—and for general reading, as Justice Brewer once said, no other is necessary.

If you wish to know more of the brilliant list of contributors, from our ex-Presidents down, who will write for the new volume in 1916, and if you wish to know something of the new stories for 1916, let us send you free the Forecast for 1916. Every new subscriber who sends \$2.00 for 1916 will receive, in addition to this year's free issues, The Companion Home Calendar for 1916.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, Boston, Mass. New subscriptions received at this office

READ THIS!

Farmers Institute to be Held in Gholson Thursday, November 11th

Prof. C. T. Ames of the Holly Springs Experiment station will be a member of the institute force at Gholson on Thursday, November 11.

Prof. Ames has had more experience than any man in the state in reclaiming washed and eroded land by terracing. He will be prepared that day to go into a field and put in a terrace—such a terrace that will prevent a farm washing away. Every farmer in that section should be present that day if you are interested in your farm. Prof. Lloyd will be present to discuss how to make your farms pay you with something else besides cotton. The ladies and children are especially invited to come. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

Everybody boost! Let's have all the farmers out that day.

Uncalled for Letters.

List of letters remaining in the post-office at Macon, Mississippi, for the week ending November 3d, 1915:

Mertise Almond	George Barberry
Alma Chandler	J. I. Eddins
Miss Annie M. Facer	Mrs. Nancy Graham
D. J. Harlan	William Hatter
Charles Hannon	Arthur Jenkins
N. M. Moss	L. on Ni hois
Anne Netam	Sarah Parham
Miss Elie Rodgers	Louis Spann (2)
Asa Frank Thompson	Frank Thompson
Estie Thomas	Jeff Walker
Albert Williams	Mrs. Julia Williams

When calling for above letters, please say advertised and present one cent at the general delivery window.

A. C. FANT, P. M.

A religious exchange makes the following terse statement: When the minut gave place to the square dance, the devil smiled. When the square dance gave way to the waltz, the devil laughed out loud. When the waltz was succeeded by the turkey trot, the fish walk and the rest of the menagerie dances, the devil shook hands with himself over the invention of such proximate occasions of sin.

HOUSE—For Sale or Rent. Apply to Mrs. A. L. HUGHES, 1